

Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 HEW-08 AGR-20

AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 ABF-01 RSR-01 EB-11 COME-00

/215 W

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R 162335 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7047

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

UNCLAS USUN 0929

FOR IO (PASS AID)

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: AORG, UN, EAID

SUGJ: UNROD - SIR ROBERT JACKSON BRIEFING MARCH 16

REF: A. STATE 048517, B. USUN 0815

1. SUMMARY: THE MOST NOTABLE POINTS IN SIR ROBERT' S SITUATION REPORT ON UNROD AND BD WERE HIS ASSESSMENT OF TOTAL FOOD GRAIN AVAILABILITY IN 1973, THE CONTINUING DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING SUFFICIENT STOCKS AT INLAND, DISTRIBUTION POINTS, THE DANGER OF SMALLPOX, AND THE ADVANTAGES OF UNDERTAKING ADDITIONAL SALVAGE OPERATIONS WHILE THE CHALNA CONSORTIUM' S EQUIPMENT IS IN THE AREA. THE US ANNOUNCED ITS CONTRIBUTION OF \$2.5 MILLION TO MEET FOREIGN EXCHANGE NEEDS. END SUMMARY.

2. TO DATE THE BDG HAS PURCHASED APPROXIMATELY 1.2 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF 200,000 (US), 167,000 (CANADA), 175,000 (EEC), 66,000 (AUSTRALIA), AND 50,000 (MISCELLANOUS) HAVE BEEN MADE.
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IN ADDITION RECENT RAINS HAVE INCREASED PROSPECTS FOR THE BORO CROP AS WELL AS HAVING POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE

AUS CROP. A FURTHER REPORT ON FOOD GRAIN PROSPECTS WILL BE MADE AFTER PROF CHANDLER'S VISIT FROM MARCH 23-27. SIR ROBERT ALSO NOTED THAT THE 15 OZ. RATION LEVEL MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE ADJUSTED SHOULD GRAINS SHORTAGES OCCUR. COMMENT: AUSTRALIA'S 66,000 TONS CONSISTS OF 12,000 TONS THROUGH JUNE 30 AND 54,000 IN NEXT FY, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN QUANTITY FORESEEN REF B. END COMMENT.

3. PROVISION OF STOCKS FOR THE NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST REGIONS REMAINS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, AND SIR ROBERT SAID THAT THE PERIOD FROM LATE AUGUST THROUGH OCTOBER COULD BE PRECARIOUS. WHILE GRAIN ARRIVALS HAVE BEEN GREATER IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THE YEAR THAN EXPECTED, THERE IS, AT PRESENT, ONLY A THREE DAYS' SUPPLY IN THE NORTHWEST AND 7 DAYS' IN THE NORTHEAST.

4. THE EVIDENCE OF SMALLPOX IS INCREASING, DESPITE A STRENUOUS EFFORT BY WHO TO INNOCULATE. THE LACK OF SANITARY DRINKING WATER HAS HELPED SPREAD THE DISEASE AND THE NUMBER OF CASES IS NOT EXPECTED TO ABATE BEFORE MAY.

5. THE SALVAGE OPERATION IN CHALNA IS PROCEEDING WELL AND IS SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. SIR ROBERT NOTED THAT THERE ARE TWO REMAINING SHIPS IN THE UPPER CHANNEL THAT THE CONSORTIUM, HAS NOT CONTRACTED TO REMOVE AND UNROD IS NOT IN A POSITION TO FINANCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF A BILATERAL DONOR WOULD COME UP WITH ABOUT \$1 MILLION, THE BDG WOULD PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO PAY TO HAVE THE TWO SHIPS REMOVED AT A CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS SINCE MOBILIZATION COSTS, INTER ALIA, WOULD BE AVOIDED.

6. FURTHER RE SALVAGE, CAPT. SEARLE, UNROD'S SALVAGE CONSULTANT, HAS RECENTLY EXAMINED THE FUEL BUOY AT CHITTAGONG AND SUGGESTED THE CONSORTIUM'S EQUIPMENT ONCE THE CHALNA POST SALVAGE IS COMPLETED, BE USED TO LIFT THE SUKEN OIL BUOY ONTO LAND FOR FAIRLY LOW COST REPAIRS; LOW COST AT LEAST COMPARED TO EARLIER ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES. SUCH SAVING IN EXPENSE OVER OTHER WAYS OF SALVAGING THE BUOY IS ONLY POSSIBLE WHILE THE EQUIPMENT IS STILL IN BD. UNROD
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REPORTEDLY DISCUSSING THIS SUGGESTION WITH BDG. SEARLE AND THE RUSSIAN ADMIRAL IN CHARGE OF CHITTAGONG CLEARANCE HAVE EXCHANGED INFORMATION RE THE RESPECTIVE SALVAGE OPERATIONS AND SEARLE VISITED MOSCOW ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO USA.

7. FOLLOWING SIR ROBERT'S COMMENTS ON UNROD'S FINANCIAL POSITION AND FINANCIAL OUTLINE FOR APR TO DEC 1973 (FORWARDED SEPTTEL), AMB. ZAGORIN INTERVIEWED AND SAID, INTER

ALIA; QTE WE HAVE CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE FORMULATION OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR THIS PERIOD AFTER MARCH 31; AND I AM PLEASED TODAY TO BE ABLE TO INFORM YOU THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL OF JANUARY 5, WE INTEND NOW TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE SYG \$2,500,000 AS A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS RELATED TO THE GENERAL RELIEF PURPOSES YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE IDENTIFIED, AND FOR WHICH OTHERS ARE CONTRIBUTING AS WELL... BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THE DIFFICULTY IN MAKING PRECISE ESTIMATES FOR A SITUATION SO INHERENT WITH UNCERTAINTIES. THUS, WE SHALL ALSO BE WATCHING ANY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURES WHICH MIGHT BE WARRANTED; AND WE WISH TO RECALL OUR EARLIER STATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER, IN PRINCIPLE, MEETING ONE THIRD OF THE COSTS OF THE OPERATION DURING THIS NEW PHASE. END QTE.

8. UNROD NY DID NOT ISSUE A NEW STATEMENT ON ITS CASH POSITION BUT MADE AVAILABLE THE STATEMENT AS OF JANUARY 31 PREVIOUSLY FORWARDED TO DEPT IN USUN 356.

9. SIR ROBERT SUGGESTED A FURTHER MEETING BE HELD O/ A MAY 4.
PHILLIPS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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